

MINUTES
Jackson County Board of Education
Joint Meeting/Work Session with County Commissioners
Sylva, North Carolina

Department on Aging Center

March 15, 2018

Heritage Room

The Jackson County Board of Education met in joint session with the Jackson County Board of Commissioners at the Department on Aging Center, Heritage Room, 100 County Services Road, Sylva, NC, on March 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss School Safety funding.

The following Jackson County Board of Education members were present at this meeting:

Ken Henke, Chairman
Ali Laird-Large, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Cooper
Margaret McRae
Wes Jamison

Also present were:

Dr. Kim Elliott, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Jake Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent Elect/Current SMHS Principal
Dr. Rebecca Ensley, Volunteer Safety Director/JCEC Principal
Mr. Darin Allison, Capital Projects and Facility Director
Mr. Jason Watson, Operations and Logistics/Safety Director

Members of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners present were:

Mr. Brian McMahan, Chairman
Mr. Boyce Dietz
Mr. Charles Elders
Mr. Ron Mau
Mr. Mickey Luker

Also present were:

Mr. Don Adams, Jackson County Manager
Ms. Darlene Fox, Finance Officer
Ms. Heather Baker, County Attorney
Ms. Angie Winchester, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:00 p.m., Chairman Brian McMahan called the meeting to order on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and turned the meeting over to Mr. Ken Henke, BOE Chairman. Chairman Ken Henke called the meeting to order on behalf of the Board of Education.

Mr. Henke introduced the members of the Jackson County Public Schools Board of Education, Mrs. Ali Laird-Large, Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, Mrs. Margaret McRae, and Mr. Wes Jamison;

Superintendent Dr. Kim Elliott; Mr. Jake Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent Elect/Current SMHS Principal; Dr. Rebecca Ensley, Volunteer Safety Director/JCEC Principal; Mr. Darin Allison, Capital Projects and Facility Director; and Mr. Jason Watson, Operations and Logistics/Safety Director.

Dr. Elliott thanked the Commissioners for their time and the opportunity to meet jointly with the County. Dr. Elliott commended the students and staff of JCPS, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management Services, the Jackson County Fire Department, and Safety personnel for their response to the incident at Scotts Creek Elementary School today. Dr. Elliott said that the students were evacuated within three minutes, were relocated to a safe location in seventeen minutes, and were reunified with their parents in a timely manner, due to the established Safe School Plan in place in JCPS.

Dr. Elliott provided an overview of the mission, the five components of preparedness, the key principals of the Comprehensive School Emergency Operations Plan and the Comprehensive Risk and Emergency Management Systems Improvement Plan.

Dr. Ensley spoke to the Commissioners about the protection, mitigation and response components of the School Safety Plans and said that there are many county agencies involved. She stated that the plan is very complex and tightly woven with annual reviews and updates.

Mr. Darin Allison stated that Jackson County Public Schools are safe, but we need to make subtle changes in improve safety.

Mr. Jason Watson stated that we need to make our schools safe without making them a prison. He informed the boards that the school campuses that are open and easily accessible need to be closed and breezeways need to be connected. He said that doors that are open during transition periods need to be addressed with possible buzz-in access from a central location, and the addition of cameras are needed in many areas.

CLOSED SESSION

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a motion by Mr. Boyce Dietz and seconded by Mr. Charles Elders, to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(8).

The Jackson County Board of Education unanimously approved a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11 for the following purposes: under subsection; (a) (8) to formulate plans by a local board of education relating to emergency response to incidents of school violence or to formulate and adopt the school safety components of school improvement plans by a local board of education or a school improvement team.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mr. Elizabeth Cooper, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

OPEN SESSION

Mr. Henke stated that no action was taken in closed session by the Jackson County Board of Education. He stated that he appreciates the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education working together.

Dr. Elliott summarized the Safe Schools' budget needs for Jackson County Public Schools and thanked the Commissioners for their time and support.

Mr. McMahan thanked the Jackson County Public Schools staff for their presentation. Mr. McMahan asked JCPS to provide a check list to outline the critical needs and stated that action could be taken as early as Monday in their business session.

Mr. McMahan called the Jackson County Board of Commissioners into recess until Monday, March 19, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

The Joint Meeting/Work Session concluded at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Ken Henke, Chairman

Dr. Kim Elliott, Secretary